

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An arrangement for enclosing at least a part of an object, comprising:

a support configured to receive the object therein; and

an elastically deformable sleeve andextending over-a the support, the sleeve having an initiating part removably secured to one end of the support to hold the sleeve in a deformed state, the initiating part being stretched to a greater extent than a remainder of the sleeve when the initiating part is secured to the one end of the support, the initiating part being locally relaxed in isolation from the remainder of the sleeve when the initiating part is initially unsecured from the one end of the support, the sleeve being driven away from the one end of the support after the initiating part is locally relaxed by an impetus such that the sleeve covers the object and the support is removable from the sleeve, by which the sleeve is held in a deformed state such that removal of the sleeve from one end of the support allows the sleeve to recover around and thereby to enclose the object;

an initiating part of the sleeve remote from the one end is arranged such that the deformation of the initiating part may be locally relaxed initially in isolation from a remainder of the sleeve, the arrangement being such that the local relaxation provides an impetus that facilitates or causes the removal of the sleeve from the one end of the support.

2. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which a holding portion of the sleeve ~~remote from~~engages the one end of the support ~~and at a position~~ beyond the initiating part of the sleeve, the holding portion being ~~is~~ in a more relaxed state than the initiating part of the sleeve, the ~~relatively~~-relaxed state of the holding portion of the sleeve at least contributing to the holding of the initiating part of the sleeve, and consequently also the remainder of the sleeve, in the deformed state.

3. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 2, ~~in which the local relaxation of the deformation of the initiating part of the sleeve may be caused by a deformation of the holding portion of the sleeve~~wherein the holding portion is deformable, the initiating part being initially unsecured from the one end of the support when the holding portion is deformed.

4. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, ~~in which the initiating part of the sleeve is held by the support in a state of greater deformation than that of the remainder of the sleeve~~wherein the holding portion folds over the one end of the support.

5. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 4₁, in which the ~~greater deformation of the initiating part of the sleeve is~~secured to the one end of the support caused by a protrusion or a depression of ~~on~~ the one end of the support.

6. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 5, in which the protrusion is ~~in the form of a peripheral flange projecting radially outward from the one end of the support or the depression is in the form of a groove.~~

7. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 5, in which the protrusion or the depression is movable with respect to the remainder of the support, to cause or allow the local relaxation of ~~to unsecure~~ the initiating part of the sleeve.

8. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising at least one holdout, a portion of the sleeve remote from the initiating part extending at least partially over the holdout, the holdout being removable from the end of the sleeve remote from the initiating part retaining member attached to the sleeve such that releasing the retaining member from the sleeve causes or allows the local relaxation of the initiating part of the sleeve.

9. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the sleeve is hollow and arranged to enclose at least part of the object by encircling it.

10. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 9, in which the sleeve is generally in the shape of a round or oval tube.

11. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 9, in which the sleeve, in its relaxed state, comprises a plurality of sections of differing configurations, each of the sections arranged to enclose a respective section of the object.

12. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 9, in which all or part of the support is located inside the sleeve.

13. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the support is hollow.

14-15. (cancelled).

16. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the sleeve is formed from an elastomeric polymer material.

17. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the support is formed from a polymer material.

18. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the deformation of the sleeve comprises expansion of the sleeve, support is driven in a direction opposite from the direction of the sleeve by the impetus after the initiating part is locally relaxed.

19. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 420, in which the state of greater deformation of the initiating part of the sleeve comprises a stretched or expanded state the support has a plurality of ribs to facilitate the removal of the sleeve there from.

20. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the support has a shape that facilitates the removal of the sleeve from the support once the initiating part of the sleeve has been locally relaxed.

21. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 20, in which the support is tapered to facilitate the removal of the sleeve there from.

22. (currently amended) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the support carries is provided with a lubricant material that facilitates the removal of the sleeve from the support once the initiating part of the sleeve has been locally relaxed.

23. (previously presented) The arrangement according to claim 1, in which the removal of the sleeve from the support is substantially automatic once the initiating part of the sleeve has been locally relaxed.

24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, in which the sleeve is elastically deformable further comprising providing a protrusion or a depression on the one end of the support to secure the initiating part.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of engaging a holding portion of the sleeve to the one end of the support at a position beyond the initiating part of the sleeve, the holding portion being in a more relaxed state than the

initiating part of the sleeve deforming the sleeve and holding the sleeve in its deformed state by the support.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2527, further comprising shaping the support to facilitate the removal of the sleeve from the support once the initiating part of the sleeve has been locally relaxed the step of deforming the initiating part of the sleeve to a greater degree than that of the remainder of the sleeve, and holding the initiating part of the sleeve in its state of greater deformation by means of a suitable projection or other formation of the support.

27. (currently amended) A method of enclosing an object, comprising the steps of: placing a support having an elastically deformable sleeve extending there over over the object; locally relaxing an initiating part of the sleeve; and causing the sleeve to be removed from the support and to recover and thereby enclose the object.

securing an initiating part of the sleeve to one end of the support to hold the sleeve in a deformed state, the initiating part being stretched to a greater extent than a remainder of the sleeve when the initiating part is secured to the one end of the support;

unsecuring the initiating part from the one end of the support to locally relax the initiating part in isolation from the remainder of the sleeve;

driving the sleeve away from the one end of the support after the initiating part is locally relaxed by an impetus to cover the object; and

removing the support from the sleeve.